

ABSTRACT

Peptide sequences constituting T-cell epitopes of minor Histocompatibility antigen, HA-1. HA-1 is associated with Graft versus Host Disease. The peptides and their derivatives find many uses, for instance in bone marrow transplantation, organ transplantation and in treatment of leukemia and non-hematopoietic tumors. The peptide and/or its derivatives can be incorporated in vaccines, in pharmaceutical formulations and they can be used in diagnostic test kits. HA-1 is expressed by non-hematopoietic tumor cells. While absent in normal epithelial cells, tumor cells and tumor cell lines, particularly from epithelial origin, express HA-1 and are recognized by HA-1 cytotoxic T cells. The invention provides means and methods for HA-1 specific immunotherapy for HA-1 positive patients with non-hematopoietic tumor cells.